

MARVEL
PSR 504

AVERY
STRACZYNSKI
ROMITA JR.
HANNA

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

**CHASING A
DARK SHADOW**

2 OF 2





"So this is, as you say, the finest your city has to offer?"



Hey, it's a hot dog. You know anything else that says New York more than a good dog with mustard, maybe a little chili?

I'm just not altogether sure you've given this a great deal of thought.



Could be. See, I've been thinking, and it's odd...lately I've been handling more than my share of magic cases.

I mean, usually it's some guy in a powered suit, or a piece of technology, or bio-engineering...magic, not so much. Until lately.

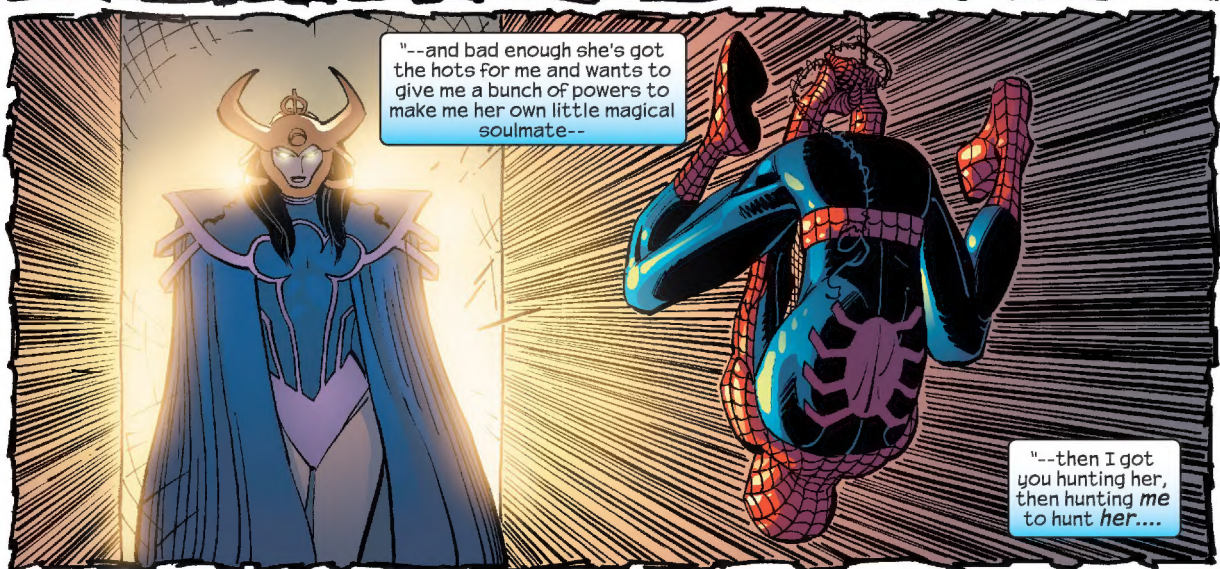


Some days I think I'm being set up for something.

I share the feeling.



"I mean, first there was Dormammu, who made the mess that let this Morwen come through in the first place--



"--and bad enough she's got the hots for me and wants to give me a bunch of powers to make me her own little magical soulmate--

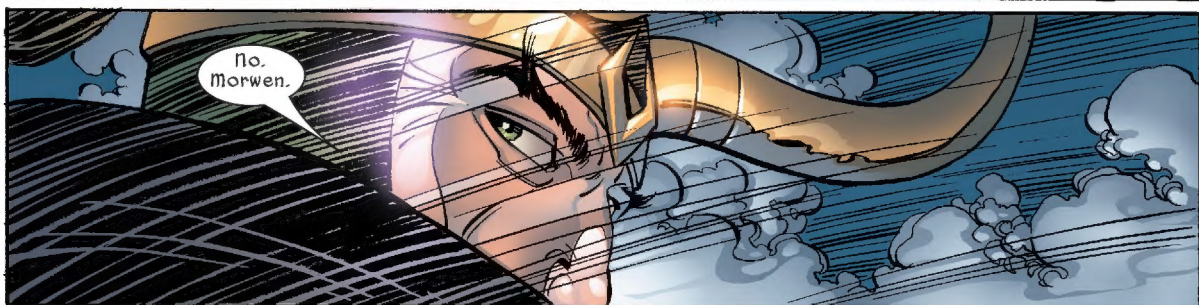
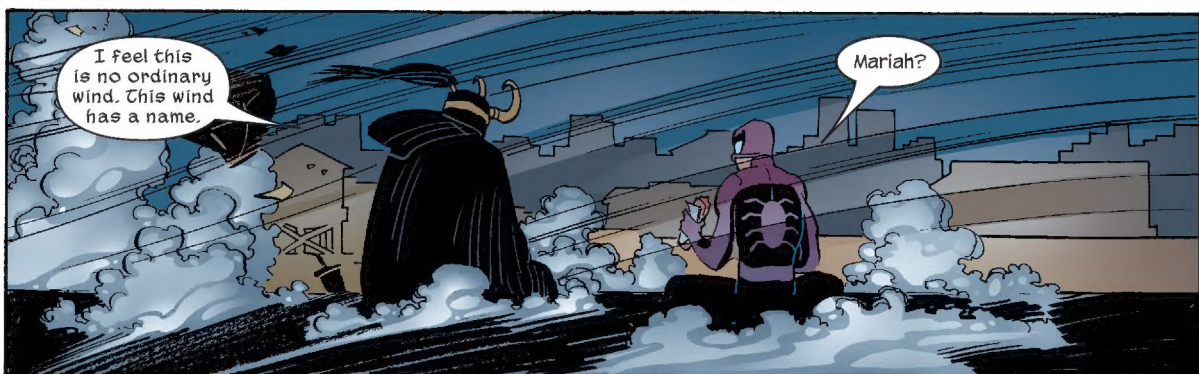
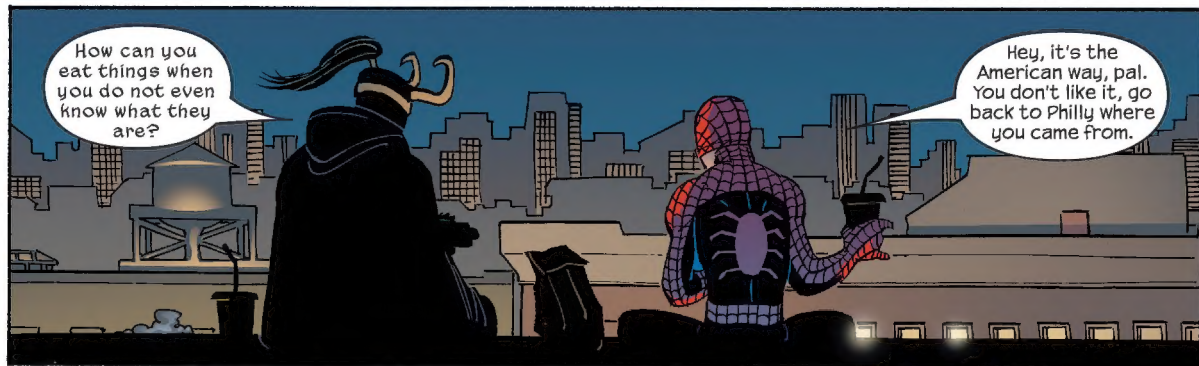
"--then I got you hunting her, then hunting *me* to hunt *her*....

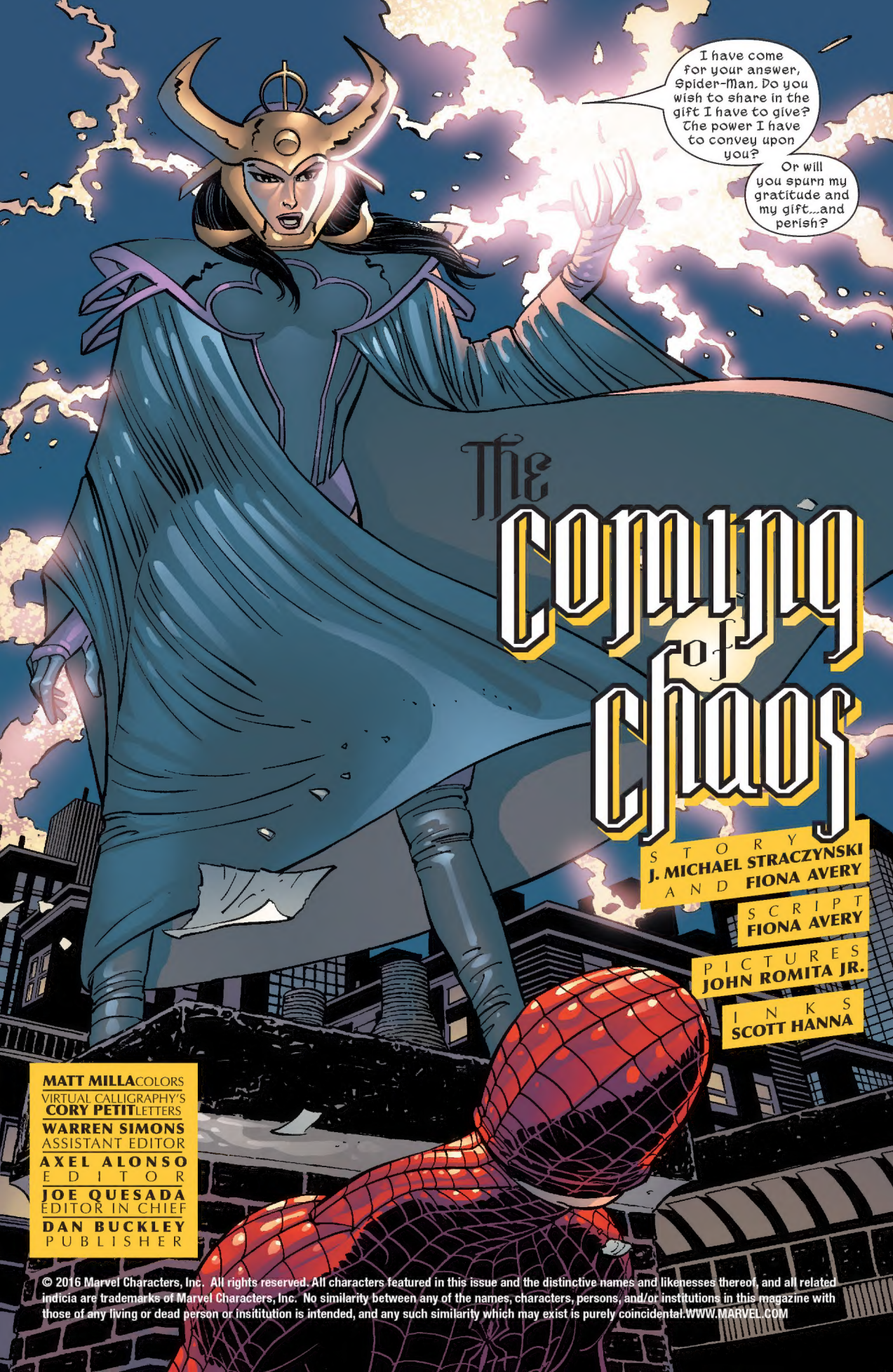


"Any way you look at it, I'm up to my webs in magical whackos."

No offense meant.

None taken.





I have come for your answer, Spider-Man. Do you wish to share in the gift I have to give? The power I have to convey upon you?

Or will you spurn my gratitude and my gift...and perish?

The coming of chaos

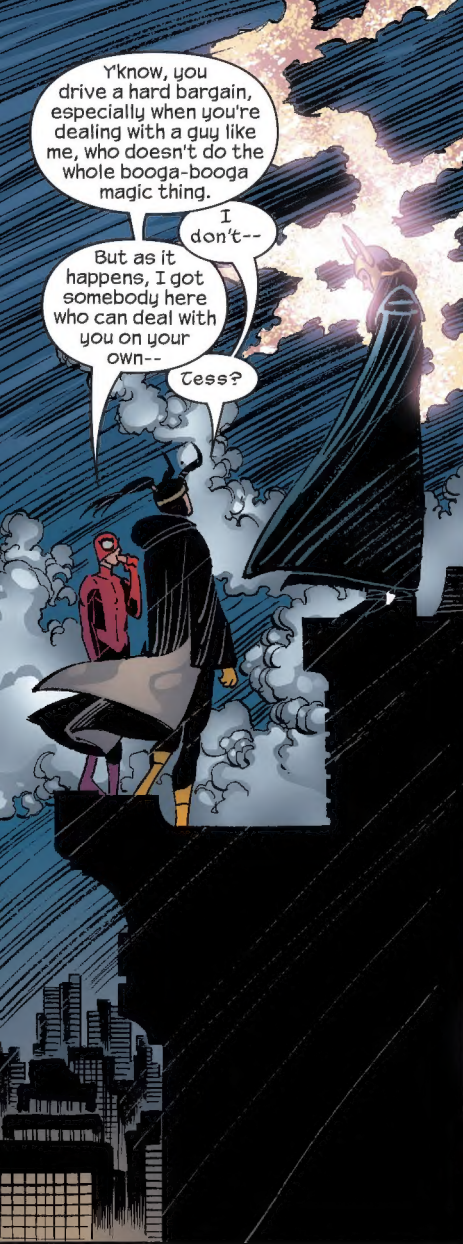
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Y'know, you drive a hard bargain, especially when you're dealing with a guy like me, who doesn't do the whole booga-booga magic thing.

I don't--

But as it happens, I got somebody here who can deal with you on your own--

Tess?



No, this is Morwen, remember? We went over all this in the staff meeting, it's --

No. The spirit is Morwen. But the body... the body belongs to Tess Black. I did not see before now, I was not close enough to--

Whoa, hang on, wait a second...who's Tess Black?



My daughter.

You have a daughter?

Hundreds, across the centuries.

I'm a Norse god. It's what we do.



So, that's what drew me to this body. I felt strength in it, the blood of gods, but now I understand.

And I understand why it has made me even stronger than before.

Give me back my daughter!



I will do no such thing. And if you attempt to drive me out of this body somehow, the trauma would almost certainly drive her into madness.

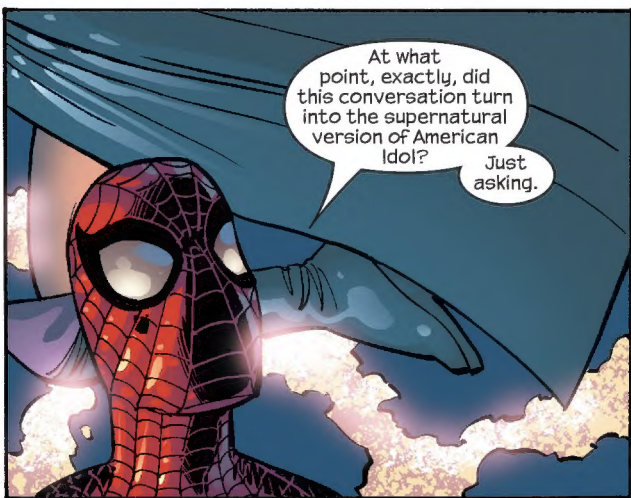
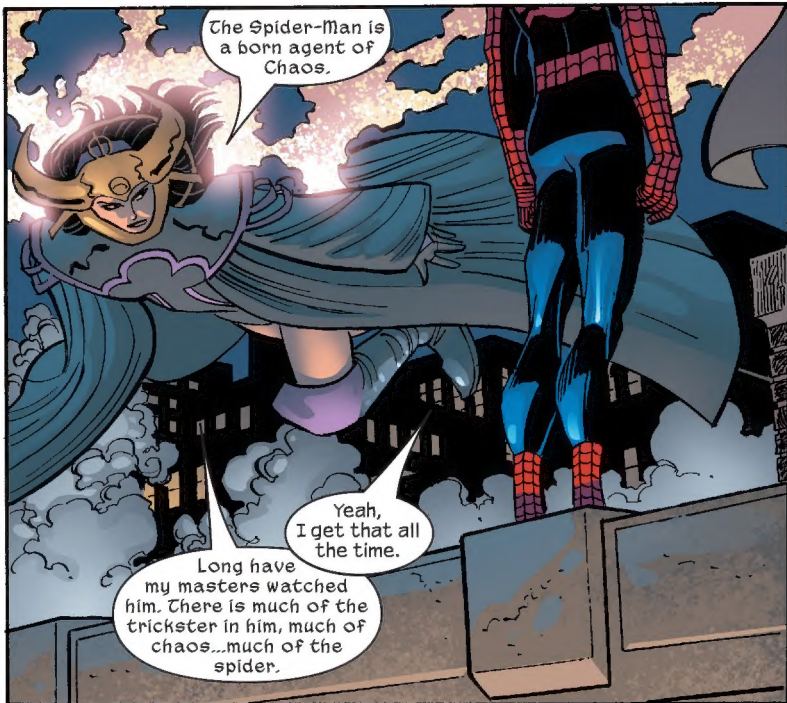
You are bold to anger me in such a fashion. It is a powerful sorcerer who would challenge a god--

Psst... hey, Sir Pose-a-lot...

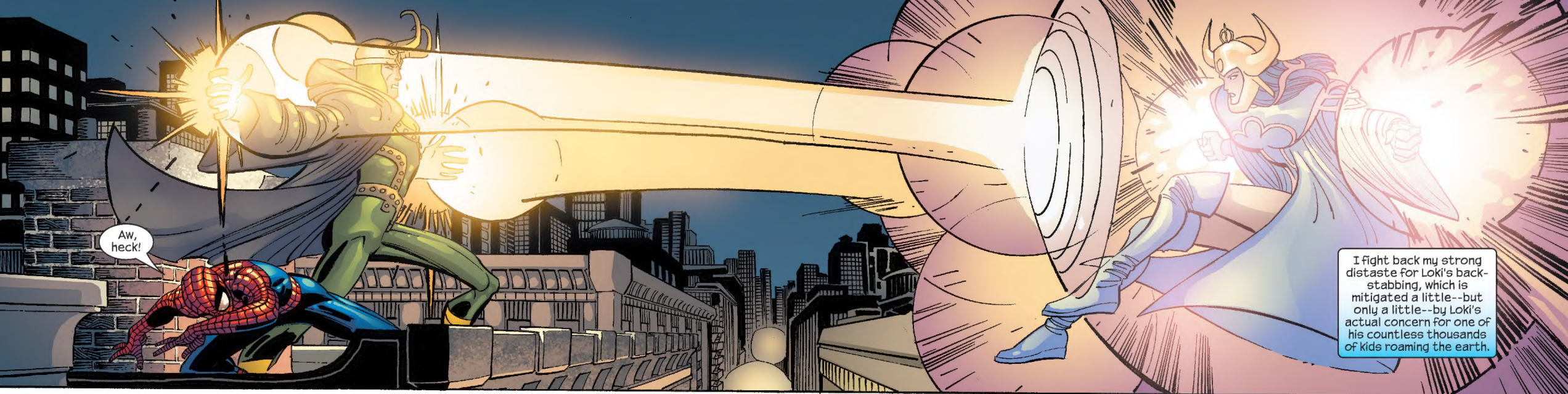


Silence.

Question: If Tess really does have your blood in her veins, instead of being a weak mortal--

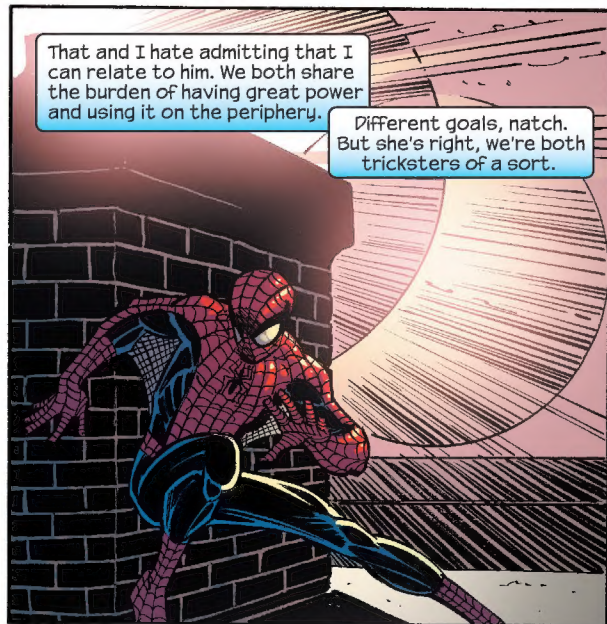






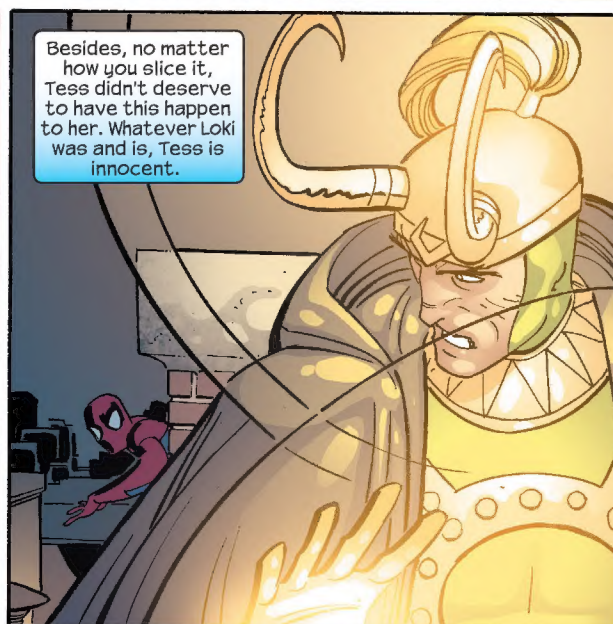
Aw, heck!

I fight back my strong distaste for Loki's backstabbing, which is mitigated a little--but only a little--by Loki's actual concern for one of his countless thousands of kids roaming the earth.



That and I hate admitting that I can relate to him. We both share the burden of having great power and using it on the periphery.

Different goals, natch. But she's right, we're both tricksters of a sort.



Besides, no matter how you slice it, Tess didn't deserve to have this happen to her. Whatever Loki was and is, Tess is innocent.



AAUGH!



And that makes it my turf.



I forgot... how slow...mortals can be.



I just wanted you to feel like you were doing well. I'd hate for this fight to be over before you got in a few shots.

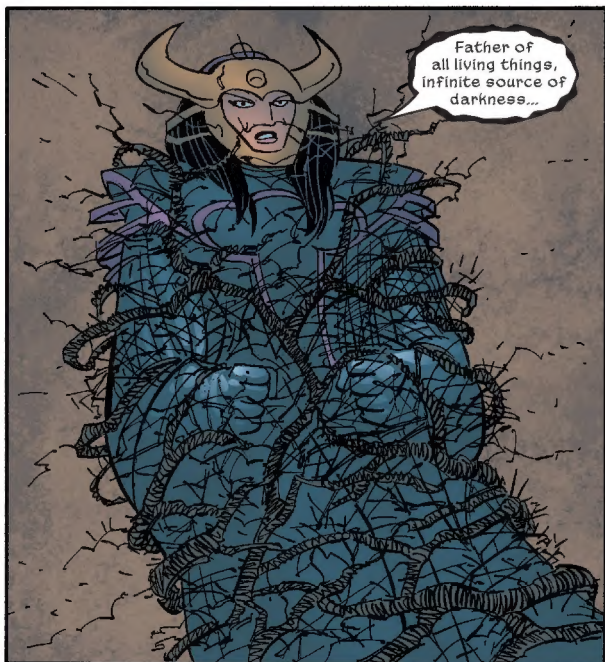
Since you have chosen to fight me instead of join with me.

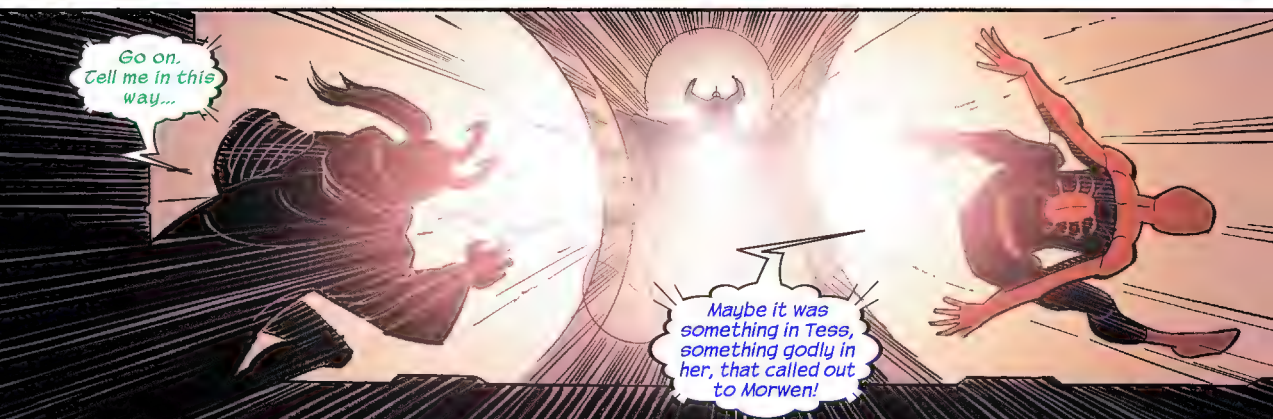
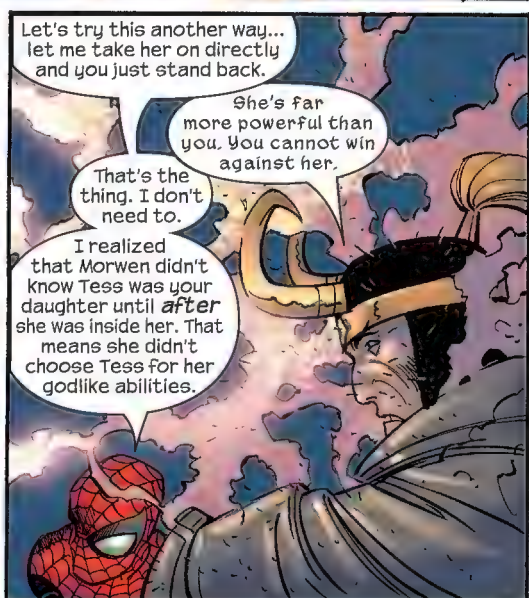
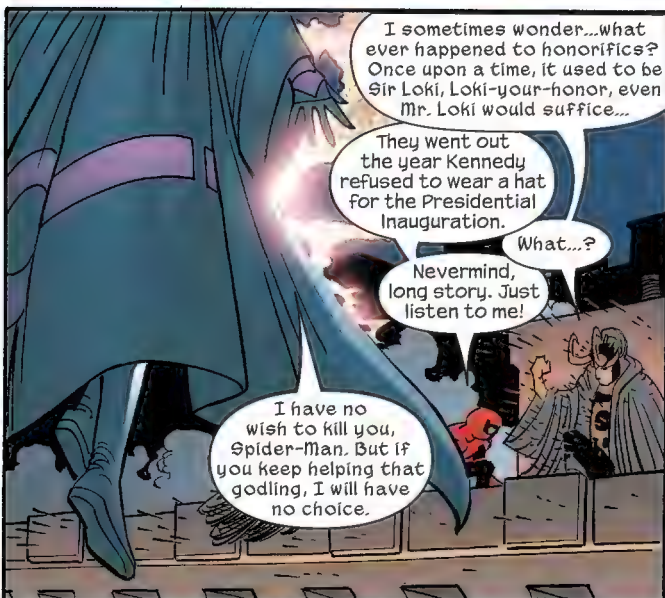
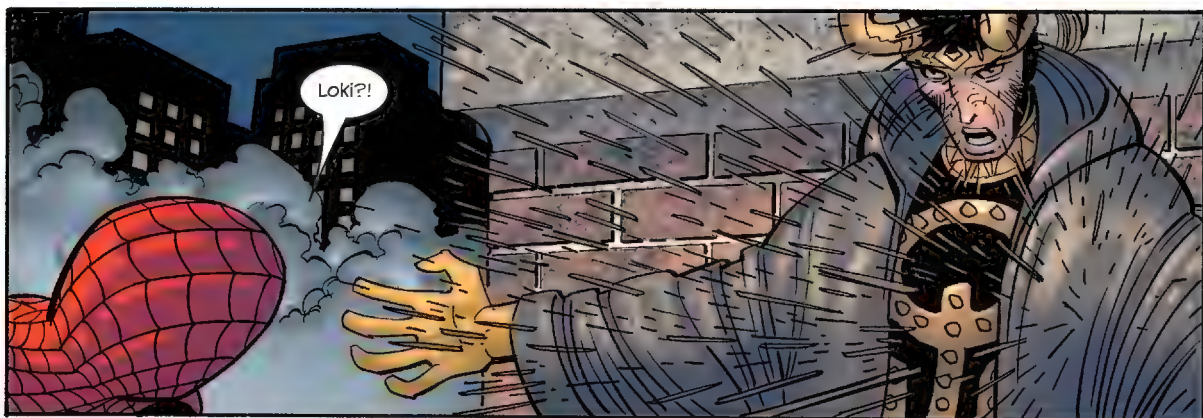


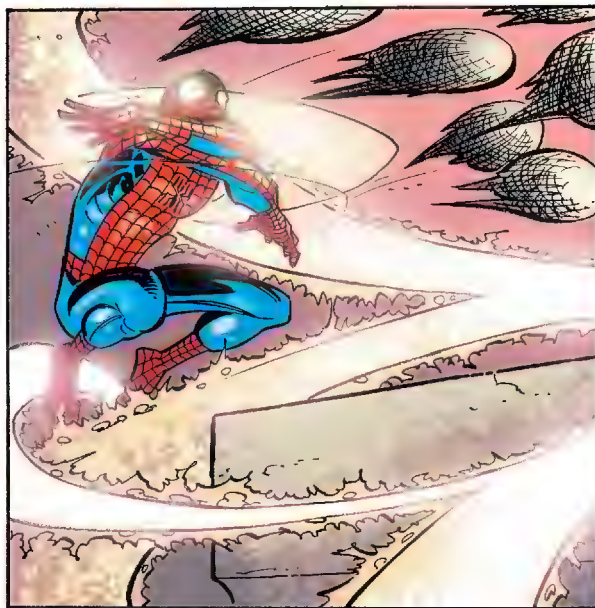
I will not hold back.



But I will. Because I'm a gent that way.







I'm going in ...



Help me.
Someone.
Please.

Tess.
I've come.

Do you
know who
I am?

...Father?



You cannot
defeat me. Loki
himself cannot
defeat me.

I'm
willing to
try.





You have to fight.

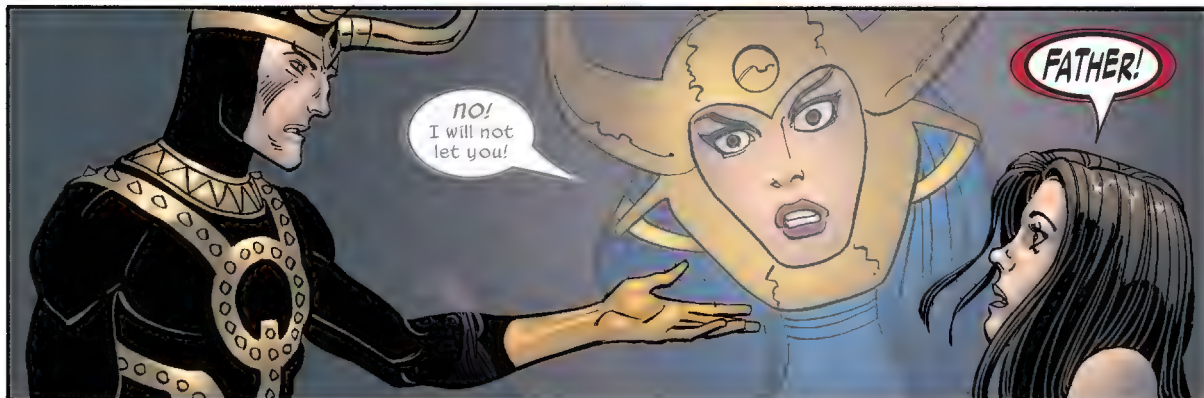
I'm afraid. I can't!

Come to me.



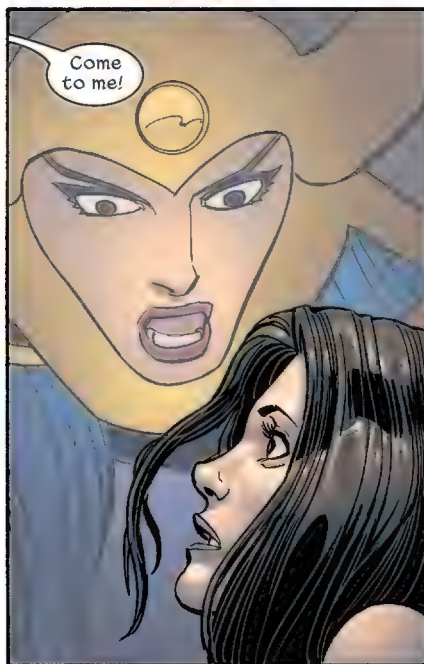
Come to me. Show her how wrong she is. Show her your strength, my daughter. That a father's anger can still be found in a daughter's eyes. That anger is something to be feared.

Father!

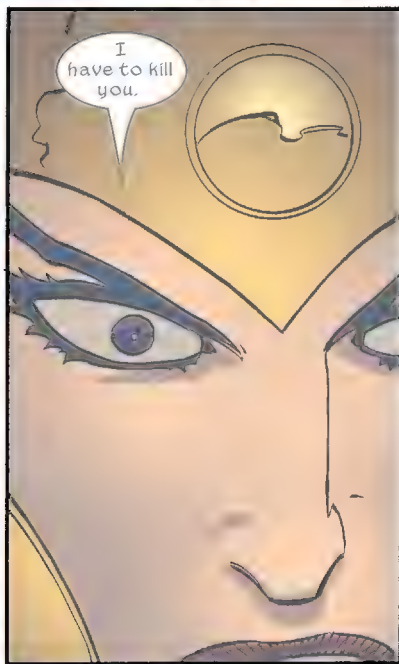
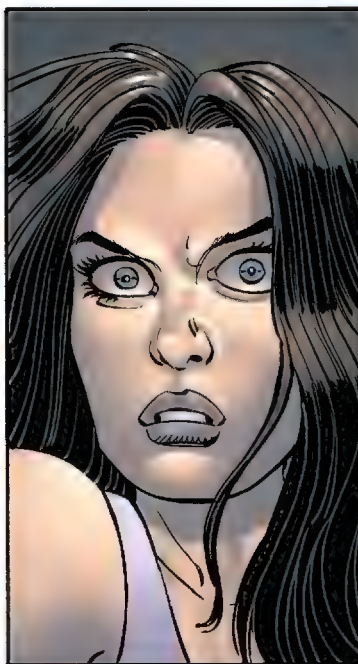


NO! I will not let you!

FATHER!



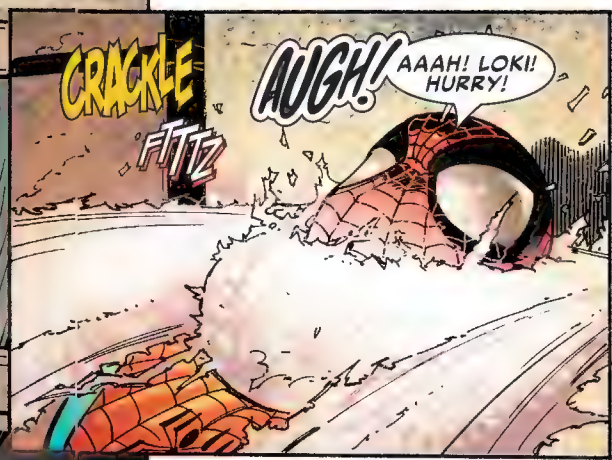
Come to me!



I have to kill you.



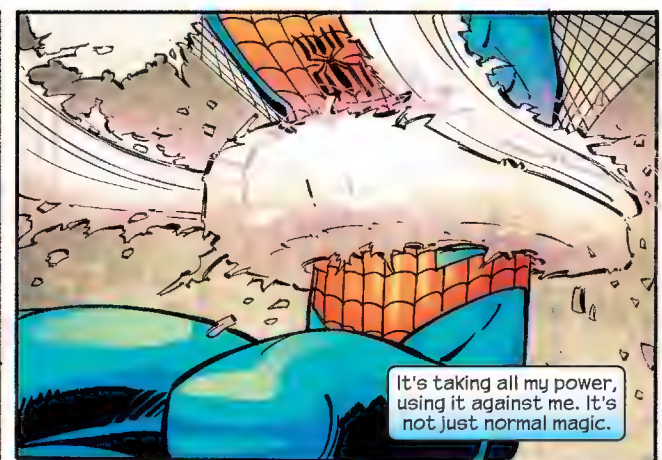
I'll kill you and then be rid of that thief, Loki.



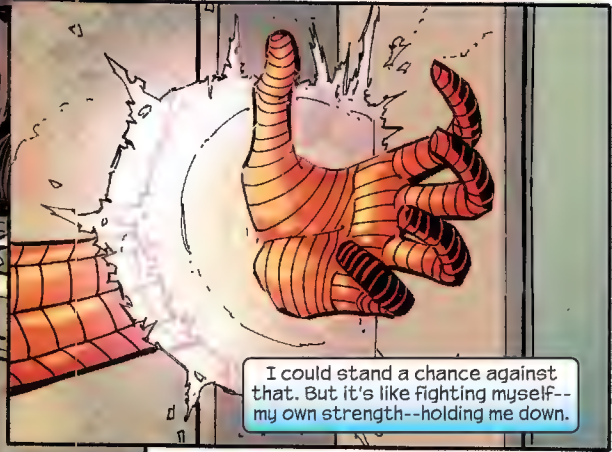
CRACKLE
FITZ

AUGH!

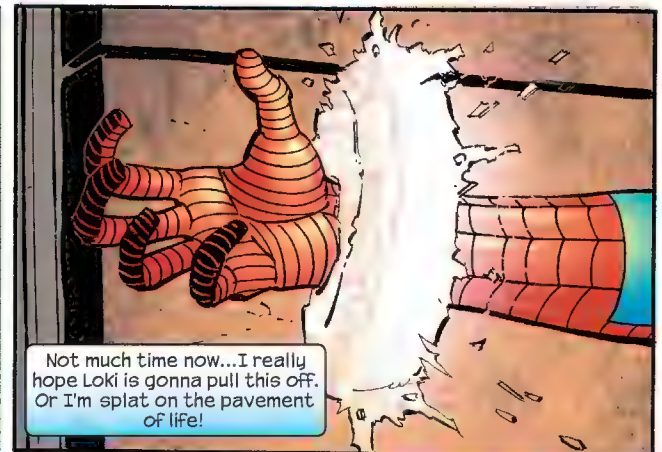
AAAH! LOKI!
HURRY!



It's taking all my power, using it against me. It's not just normal magic.



I could stand a chance against that. But it's like fighting myself--my own strength--holding me down.



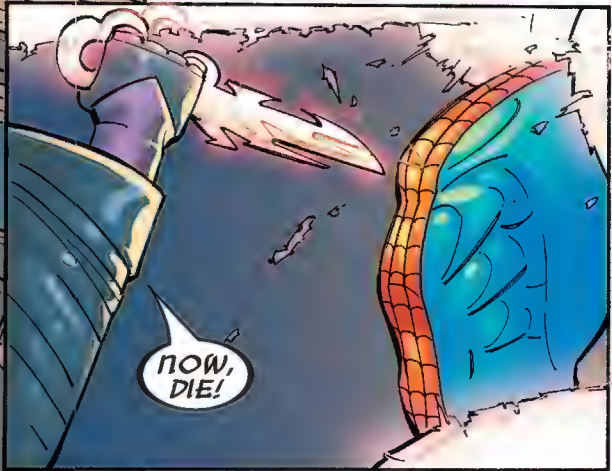
Not much time now...I really hope Loki is gonna pull this off. Or I'm splat on the pavement of life!



I can't linger on you. I have to get to Loki soon or it's all over.



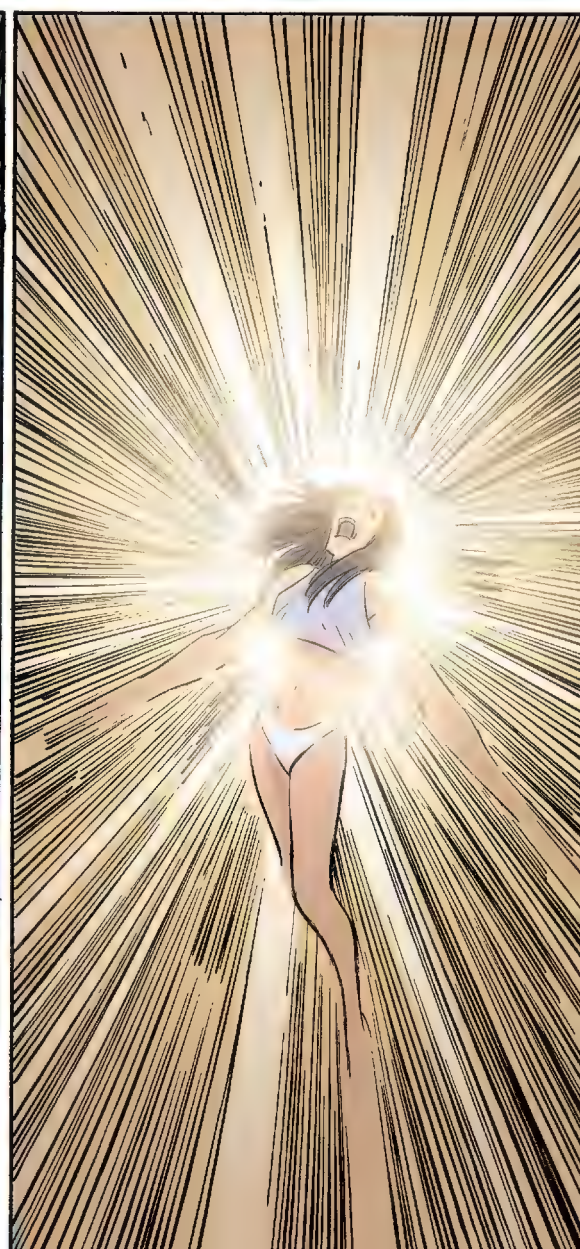
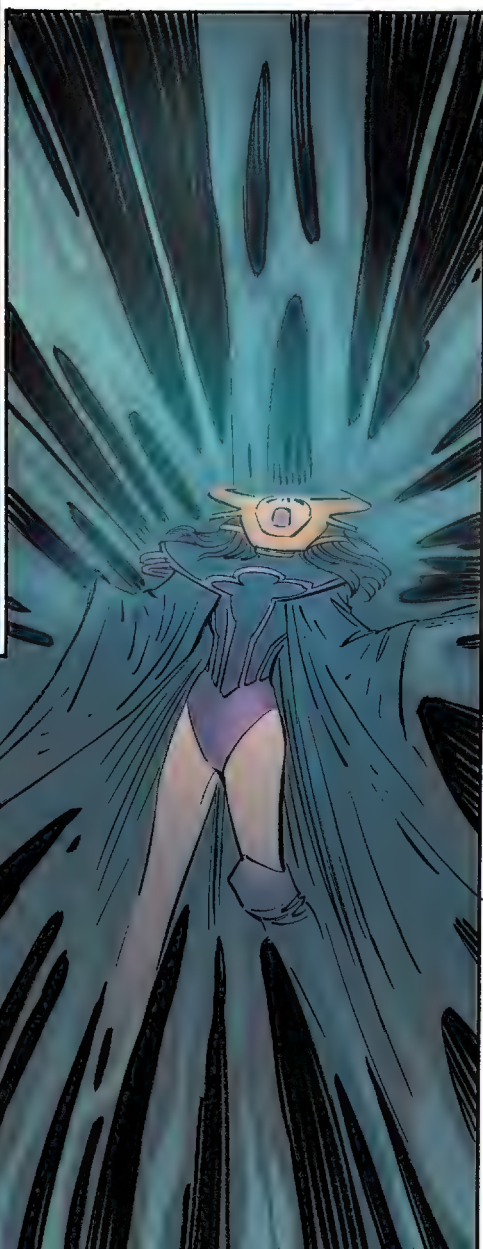
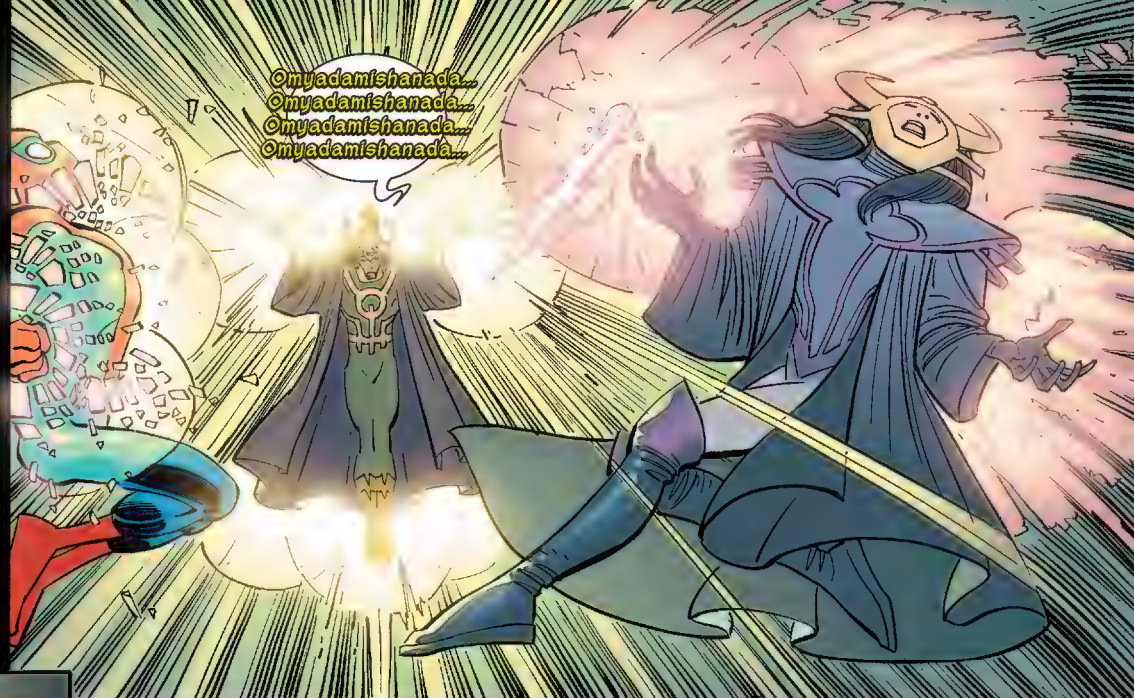
But I will not leave this body.

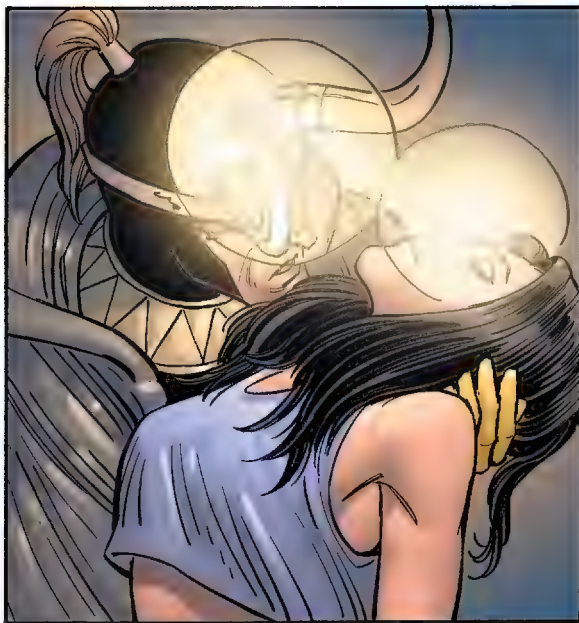


NOW,
DIE!



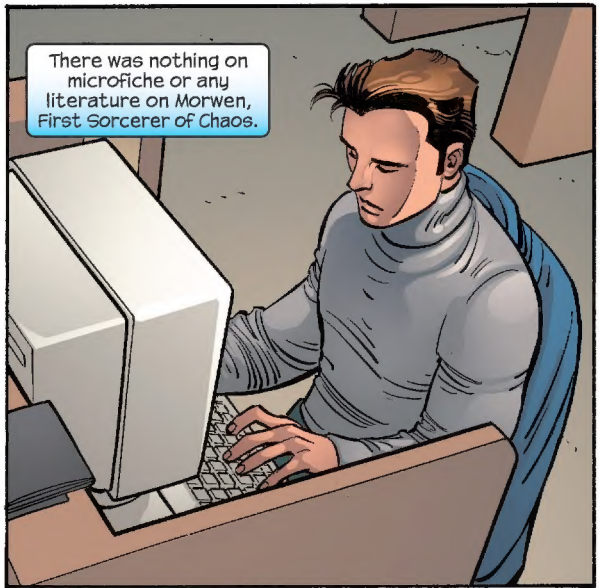
GULPBBREELLE...







Doc Strange still wasn't in town, so I did a little investigating of my own at the public library.



There was nothing on microfiche or any literature on Morwen, First Sorcerer of Chaos.

Shopping

Money

People & Chat

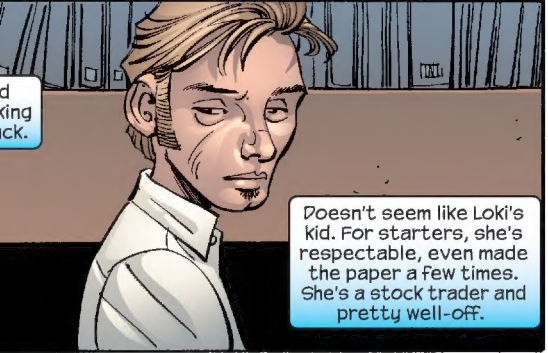
I looked her up online too. All I got were X-rated sites. Thankfully the public library has a block on that stuff. Talk about embarrassing!

Search

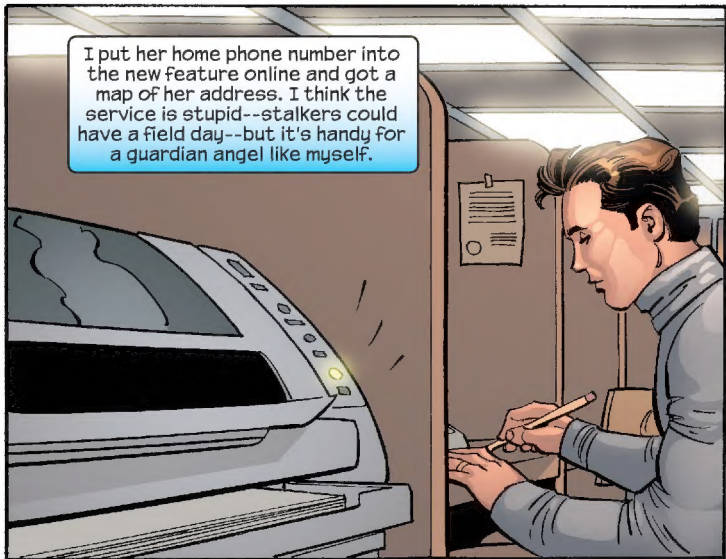
Morwen + Sorcerer of Chaos



Then I did some checking on Tess Black.



Doesn't seem like Loki's kid. For starters, she's respectable, even made the paper a few times. She's a stock trader and pretty well-off.



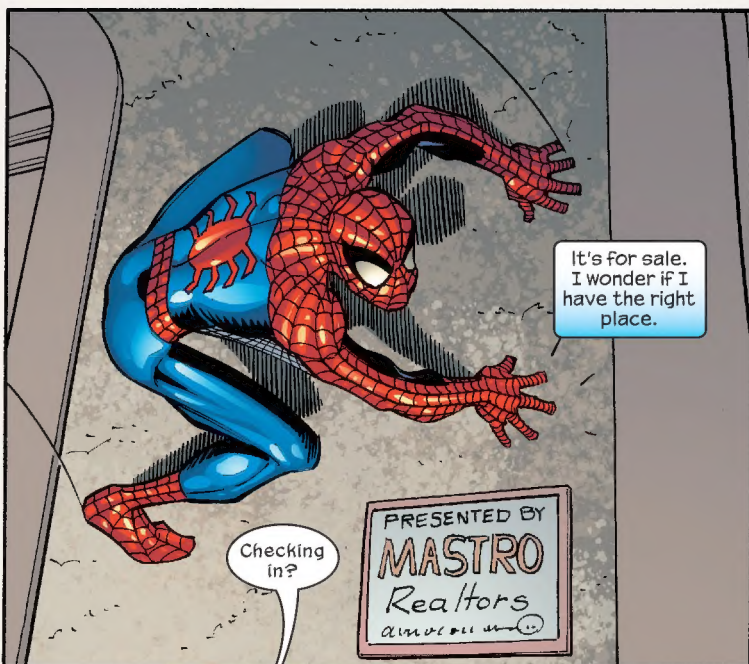
I put her home phone number into the new feature online and got a map of her address. I think the service is stupid--stalkers could have a field day--but it's handy for a guardian angel like myself.



Oh, and I made absolutely sure Aunt May's number stayed unlisted. Just 'cuz.



I stop by the house but...



It's for sale. I wonder if I have the right place.

Checking in?

PRESENTED BY
MASTRO
Realtors
AMERICAN



Oh, it's you.

That's "Sir You the Mighty" to you. And when you address me, it's His Holiness and please and thank you.



Well, then, Your Royal Terror, would you please march right over to a comfortable chair and take the time to explain this "For Sale" sign on Tess' home. And please tell me how Tess is doing.



Tess has no memory of the conflict, which is the best thing for her.

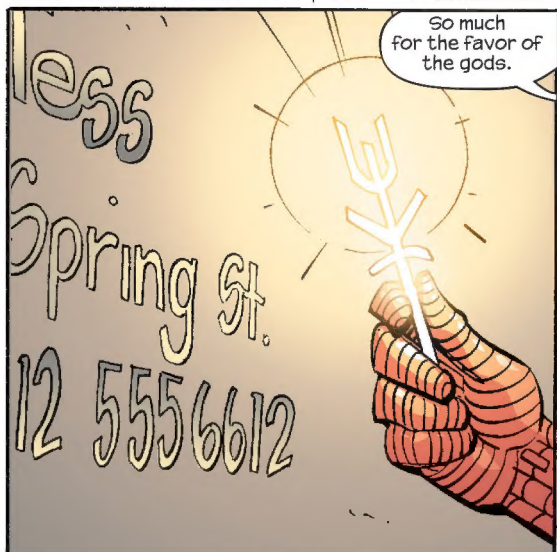
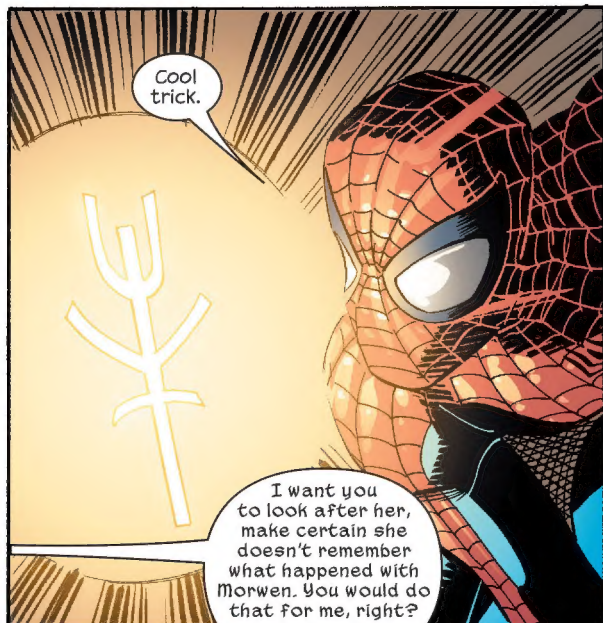
Yeah. That's good.

She also has no idea she's the daughter of an Asgardian God.



But you're going to tell her, right?

I have no intention of jeopardizing my progeny with enemies or foolishness because they discover too much of their origins.





But I kept the Rune.
Then headed home after
my patrol, thinking that
it's kinda cool to have
a god on your side, all
things considered.